

**SITUATION REPORT NO. 17**  
**INCIDENT NO. 99-009**  
**DATE: June 4, 1999      TIME: 2:00 p.m.**

TO: Governor Edward T. Schafer  
State Capitol  
Bismarck, ND 58505

1. NATURE OF DISASTER: Spring flooding – Above normal soil moisture content throughout North Dakota, compounded by seven years of flooding, has resulted in overland and river flooding.
2. DEATHS AND INJURIES: Bottineau County officials have reported that a drowning death that occurred this spring has been attributed to flood conditions in the area.

One individual suffered minor injuries as a result of a tornado that struck the city of Steele on June 3.

3. DAMAGES: A series of damaging thunderstorms, which spawned tornadoes in several counties, moved through North Dakota on June 3. These storms, characterized by dime- to golfball-sized hail, heavy rainfall and damaging winds, impacted homes, businesses and vehicles and disrupted utility service.

High winds, possibly a tornado, caused extensive damages to homes and businesses in the city of Steele in Kidder County on June 3, bending a mobile home in half, uprooting trees, overturning vehicles, knocking out windows and downing power lines. High winds knocked power lines across I-94 and blew semi tractor-trailers off the roadway and into ditches. Uprooted trees fell on vehicles, garages and homes. A Kidder County shop building has been destroyed. Crews from KEM Electric and Montana-Dakota Utilities have been working to restore service to the area.

Fifteen people on the Standing Rock Indian Reservation have been sheltered after high winds during a June 3 storm caused extensive damage to a manufactured home and blew the roof off a duplex, moving two to three inches off its foundation. High winds and golfball- to baseball-size hail caused damages to other structures in the city of Porcupine, southeast of Shields.

Excessive moisture in Williams County contributed to a breach and leak in the sewage lagoon for the city of Wildrose. City workers have been working to plug the breach with sandbags as a stopgap measure. A contractor places the cost for rebuilding the lagoon at \$270,000. Earlier reports this spring from the Williams County Emergency Manager had indicated that excessive runoff, high water tables and precipitation have resulted in road, culvert and sewer damages throughout the county.

In Benson County, rising Devils Lake flood waters continue to inundate public roads and private driveways, threatening the safety and well-being of motorists. High ground water tables are causing structural damage to homes and sewer systems and have resulted in well contamination. Stress levels are high among residents. Although spilled grain and box cars have been cleared at the site of a May 20 train derailment six miles north of Minnewaukan, the Burlington Northern-Santa Fe Railroad track is still under repair.

The level of Devils Lake at Creel Bay measured 1,447.01 feet on June 4.

Basement flooding has been reported in every community in Bottineau County. The Emergency Manager estimates that water has infiltrated 1,000 basements, causing floors to heave, walls to collapse and damaging wall coverings and carpets. In addition, the main sewer line for the city of Bottineau has collapsed, as have septic tanks throughout the area. Because excessive moisture delayed planting, farmers estimate only a 10- to 20-percent yield for their crops. Along Lake Metigoshe, docks have been washed out, retention walls have caved in, and water levels have risen to within inches of cabins. Throughout the county, roads have either washed out or are under water and are impassible.

4. RESOURCES:

LOCAL: Local agencies contributing to storm response efforts include public works and forestry departments, law enforcement agencies, communications centers, emergency management offices, fire and rescue, ambulance, city and county commissions and administrative offices.

STATE: Staffs from N.D. Highway Patrol, N.D. State Radio Communications, North Dakota Emergency Management, N.D. Department of Human Services and N.D. Department of Transportation monitored storm conditions and provided support assistance to local authorities.

FEDERAL: The NWS issued periodic storm watches and warnings to alert the public to possible hazards.

5. VOLUNTEER ACTION: Neighbors have been assisting each other with cleanup efforts.

6. MAJOR ACTIONS: The Standing Rock Housing Authority is providing temporary shelter to residents of the duplex and mobile home damaged during the June 3 storms.

The N.D. Department of Transportation crews have been removing debris from state highways and assessing damages to guard rails and signs.

The N.D. Highway Patrol has provided traffic control support as a result of last night's storms.

The N.D. Department of Health staff has been providing technical assistance to help Wildrose officials address the sewage lagoon breach and leak.

The cities of Drake and Granville in McHenry County have issued emergency declarations. A total of 34 counties, 23 cities and three Indian reservations have issued emergency or disaster declarations.

7. ASSISTANCE NEEDED: Assistance has been provided, as reported.

8. OUTSIDE HELP ON SCENE: Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA), U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), American Red Cross, consulting engineers, N.D. Department of Transportation (DOT) staff and members of the N.D. Volunteer Organizations Active in Disaster (VOAD).

9. OTHER: Correction: In the June 2 Situation Report the crest level of the Pembina River at Neche was incorrectly reported. The river crested at 17.5 feet, not 27.5 feet, on June 2-3. Flood stage is 18 feet.

The next Devils Lake State Flood Coordination Center meeting has been scheduled for Thursday, June 17, at the Ramsey County Courthouse Basement Meeting Room.

Situation Reports published by the N.D. Division of Emergency Management are posted on the Division's Internet home page. The address is: <http://www.state.nd.us/dem>.

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Douglas C. Friez, State Director